

[REDACTED]

From: ussolarworks@gmail.com on behalf of Pete Fine [pete@ussolarworks.com]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 3:11 PM
To: Regreform, DOER (ENE); Howitt, Steven - Rep (HOU); elizabeth.poirier@mahouse.gov; Heroux, Paul (HOU); james.timilty@masenate.gov; richard.ross@masenate.gov; DeLeo, Robert (HOU); Michael savage
Subject: Net Metering Reform

To DOER, MA House and Senate, and Governor Baker,

As a ten year professional in solar design and installation, with a locally based solar installation company headquartered in MA, I would like to make some suggestions to the net metering policies currently being considered.

Having read Gov. Baker's submittal, I would like to suggest a few slight modifications.

- 1) Residential net metering exemption should be for systems up to 15kW, since many MA homeowners would require over 10kW to satisfy their home electric needs.
- 2) Small Commercial system exemption to net metering limits should extend to systems up to 100kW, rather than 25kW, since 25kW is not sufficient solar to power small businesses, and 100kW does not typically have significant impact on most 3 phase commercial power lines.
- 3) **Net metering** should be available for MA electricity users for annual accumulation, for **onsite usage**. While there is a need for large commercial and utility scale solar fields, large commercial solar and wind sites where the energy produced is not used on site, should not be pooled in the same category as net metered customers.
Recent experience in MA has shown, that a very few large solar systems, have gobbled up significant amounts of the net metering capacity allowed in past and current policies. This has swamped the system, and shut out many commercial clients who would like to add solar facilities, but are prohibited due to the lack of net metering capacity, with much of that capacity used up by a few large systems. The owners of those large remote systems are capturing undue financial benefit at the loss to ratepayers, to get free exportation of their power under the old net metering rules which allowed this type of **Remote Net Metering**.

By removing the net metering caps, our local MA based businesses can make good economic investments in renewable solar power systems, and lower their long term operating costs, being more competitive in the world arena of business where they must compete.

In comparison, RI has recently done an excellent job on their net metering policies, and they do not allow remote net metering, except for municipal agencies. Many of the National Grid management personnel whom I have spoken with agree, that funnelling remote solar sites into net metering categories does not make sense economically or practically.

Remote solar and wind arrays should not be pooled in the same interconnection category as net metered customers.

I firmly believe, with these three modifications to the current proposal, that the net metering cap can be removed, and the solar industry can continue to thrive, and place more clean renewable power onto our grid.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pete Fine - President

US SolarWorks
64 Water Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-226-8005 FAX
508-226-8001 Phone